MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

1. HIGH-TENSION ELECTRIC POLES USED AS NIGHT ROOST BY TROOPS OF HANUMAN LANGUR *PRESBYTES ENTELLUS* AT NAHARGARH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, JAIPUR

A 132 kw high-tension electric line passes through the Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Jaipur. At night, electric poles of this line are used as roosting sites by the Hanuman langurs *Presbytes entellus*. There are three troops of langurs, which keep to the eastern part of the Sanctuary. They either roost on the roof and cornices of the three old multistoried *shikar* (hunting) towers or on poles of high-tension electric line. It was also observed that they regularly change their roosting sites.

Anogeissus pendula, the main tree species of the Sanctuary, generally does not grow very tall in nature, and is hence never used for night roosting. However, some tall trees of *Holoptelia integrifolia* are sometimes used for roosting.

Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) is the main predator of langurs in the Nahargarh Sanctuary. Perhaps to avoid the attack of leopard at night, troops of langurs prefer safer night roosts like the top of buildings and high-tension electric poles.

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2. ABNORMAL WEIGHT AND LENGTH * OF THE INDIAN PANGOLIN *MANIS CRASSICAUDATA* GRAY, 1827, FROM SIROHI DISTRICT, RAJASTHAN

On September 5, 2000, an Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata* Gray) was seen in the campus of the J.K. Cement factory near Banas railway station in Sirohi district of Rajasthan State. Since the animal was not safe in the factory campus, it was captured with the help of local forest officers and transferred to the Zoological Garden, Jaipur. At the Zoo, the full grown male was thoroughly checked by the zoo veterinarian, and its weight and length were recorded as below, and are compared with Prater (1980) and Roberts (1997) in Table 1.

TABLE 1
BODY MEASUREMENTS OF PANGOLIN CAUGHT FROM SIROHI DISTRCT COMPARED WITH PRATER (1980) AND ROBERTS (1997)

Parameters	Recorded/ Referred by Roberts (1997)	Recorded/ Referred by Prater (1980)	Recorded at Zoological Garden, Jaipur
1. Body Weight	11.3-17.17 kg	-	32.2 kg
2. Total body length	122 cm	105-120 cm	170 cm

It is evident from Table 1 that the specimen caught from Sirohi district is of abnormal weight and length, which is worth placing on record. The specimens measured by Prater and Roberts may have been immature.

Since the food habits of pangolin are peculiar, and its rearing is not an easy job in captivity, the pangolin was safely released in its natural habitat.

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PRATER, S.H. (1980): The Book of Indian Animals. Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay. Pp. 302.

ROBERTS, T.J. (1997): The Mammals of Pakistan. Oxford University Press, Karachi, Pakistan. Pp. 131.

*It must be noted that these are measurements of skins and not of live animals or measurements taken before skinning. — Eds

3. SCAVENGING BY STRIPENECKED MONGOOSE *HERPESTES VITTICOLLIS* ON A TIGER KILL IN PERIYAR TIGER RESERVE, KERALA

On October 17, 2000, around 1730 hrs, we were observing a three-day old sambar (*Cervus unicolor*) stag carcass, partially eaten by tiger, by the lake at Manakavala area of the Periyar Tiger Reserve. First an osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) was seen feeding on the kill. Later, a wild pig (*Sus scrofa*) approached the kill, fed on it for about 10 minutes and then suddenly bolted. After about half an hour, a stripenecked mongoose (*Herpestes vitticollis*) came to the kill and started eating. It entered the open belly and remained inside for about five minutes. Then it withdrew into the bushes, but returned after half an hour with another stripenecked mongoose. They came near the kill, but immediately turned around and ran into the bushes. Stripenecked mongoose is frequently seen in Periyar Tiger Reserve. However, scavenging by the species is being reported for the first time. In fact, nothing much is known about the feeding habits of the species, even though it is frequently seen in other areas of the Western Ghats.

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4. NOTES ON THE FOOD HABITS OF STRIPED HYENA *HYAENA HYAENA* LINN.1758 IN SARISKA TIGER RESERVE, RAJASTHAN

Though the striped hyena *Hyaena hyaena* is widely distributed in India (Prater 1980), information on its status, distribution and ecology is meagre. Hyenas are known to be scavengers, but occasionally they carry off live sheep and goats, and quite often stray dogs (Prater 1980). Between July 1988 and December 1990, 26 hyena scats were collected from Sariska Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan (76° 17'-76° 34' N; 27° 5'-27° 33' E). The scats were washed in a sieve and oven dried at 60 °C. At least 20 hairs were taken from each scat (Mukherjee *et al.* 1994) and examined under a microscope. Identification of prey species was based on medullary pattern of hair as described by Moore *et al.* (1974). Except one, all the scats contained single prey species. Chital (*Axis axis*) remains were found in 35% of the scats, followed by domestic cattle *Bos indicus* (17%), goat (14%), nilgai *Boselaphus tragocamelus* (14%) and rufoustailed hare *Lepus nigricollis ruficaudatus* (7%). The remains of an unidentified bird, an unidentified rodent and fruit of *Zizyphus mauritiana* were found in 13% of hyena scats. Chital, nilgai and domestic cattle remains found in hyena scats are likely to come from predation or scavenging.

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